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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending upon entry of the instant amendment, which is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

Independent claims 1 and 11, as well as dependent claims 2-5, 9, 12-15, and 19-20, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 6,356,821 to Yoshida (Yoshida). Dependent claims 6-8 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Yoshida in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0115543 to Emde et al. (Emde). Dependent claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Yoshida in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,794,601 to Kikuchi et al. (Kikuchi).

Applicants submit that the proposed combination of cited art fails to disclose or suggest amended claims 1 or 11.

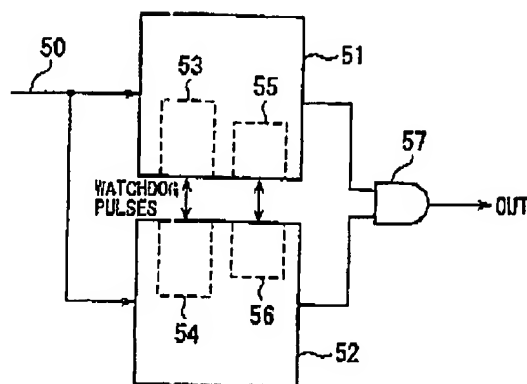
Independent claim 1 has been clarified to recite, in part, that the single process signal comprises "process information that indicates a fault free behavior with regard to the same event only when each of said first and at least one more process signals indicate a fault free behavior with regard to said event (emphasis added). Similarly, independent claim 11 has been clarified to recite, in part, that the converter converts "the single process signal so as to include process information that indicates a fault free behavior with regard to the same event only when each of said plurality of process signals indicate a fault free behavior with regard to said event (emphasis added)".

In order to more clearly illustrate the Office Action's rejection, the Office Action asserts that Yoshida discloses **AND logic**. Applicants respectfully disagree. Rather, Applicants submit that Yoshida discloses **XNOR logic**.

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The extent of disclosure in Yoshida of circuit 57 begins at col. 1, line 30 and ends at line 62, and is shown in FIG. 5. For ease of analysis, FIG. 5 is reproduced below in its entirety.

FIG. 5



PRIOR ART

With respect to FIG. 5, the pertinent part of Yoshida discloses that comparing circuit 57 compares operation results outputted from both microcomputers 51 and 52. When the operation results do not coincide, it is determined that there is any fault in operational function and the like of a processing system including the microcomputers 51 and 52, and the comparing circuit 57 outputs a fault signal indicating that there is a fault condition in the processing system.

Thus, Applicants submit that Yoshida merely compares, whether both operation results of the two microcomputers of the processing system are identical. In the event that the microcomputers output a different result from one another, then the fault is detected and the fault signal can be outputted. However, when the operation results are the same, then the system of Yoshida assumes that the processing system is working as desired.

Further, Applicants submit that the fault/fault-free detection is not with regard to the signal event 50 but rather with regard to the comparison of the output of the two

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microcomputers 51 and 52, where each output is a different event. Thus, Applicants submit that Yoshida clearly discloses XNOR logic and not the AND logic asserted by the Office Action and clearly discloses not disclose or suggest fault/fault-free detection with regard to a signal event.

In contrast, the fault/fault-free detection according to clarified claims 1 and 11, is a qualified detection of a certain condition of one event by means of detecting a certain consensus of two different signals both of which representing the same event.

Thus, Applicants submit that Yoshida simply fails to disclose or suggest clarified claims 1 or 11.

Emde was merely asserted as disclosing transmission of protected signals with respect to dependent claims 6-8. However, Emde simply fails to disclose or suggest the logic operations on a single-signal basis to identify the event of claim 1 or claim 11.

Kikuchi was merely asserted as disclosing transmission signals via separate channels with respect to dependent claim 10. However, Kikuchi simply fails to disclose or suggest the logic operations on a single-signal basis to identify the event of claim 1 or claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Yoshida, alone or in combination with Emde and/or Kikuchi fails to disclose or suggest independent claims 1 and 11, or claims 2-10 and 12-20 that depend therefrom, respectively. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

In the alternative, Applicants submit that the instant amendment does not require additional search and consideration and/or places the present application in better

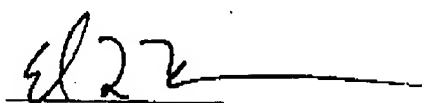
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condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the instant amendment, at least for the purposes of appeal, are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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